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Agenda item 13

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS TWELFTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Ioan BARAC (Romania)

Chapter X

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS (Item 11)

1. The Committee considered item 11 of its agenda at its seventh meeting, on 1 April 1991. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General on proposed programmes of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development in natural resources and energy for the biennium 1992-1993 (E/C.7/1991/CRP.1).

2. One delegation noted that the proposed programme of work seemed to exist as a compact, self-sufficient programme. Coordination with the rest of the United Nations system was not highlighted. It indicated that preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development were the focus of global attention and that the Committee on Natural Resources should take a stronger stance towards the preparations for the Conference, in light of the fact that natural resources and energy were part and parcel of the environment. It was the view of the delegation that the Committee on Natural Resources should make recommendations to the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development relating to environmental issues associated with water resources, minerals and energy. It was noted that the work programme could be changed in light of decisions taken in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The work programme for 1992-1993 reflected an increasing emphasis on efficiency in the use of natural resources.

3. The delegation also made a number of suggestions regarding programme items in annex I and annex II of the document. It proposed that subprogramme 1 of programme 20, "Energy", be renamed "Monitoring and analysis of global energy trends and of prospective impacts on the environment and development". It also proposed that the emphasis be changed in subprogramme 1, "Coordination in the field of water resources", of programme 19, "Natural resources", and that the text start with the words "Coordination and promotion of the cooperation among the organizations of the United Nations system ..." without any changes to the original text that followed the words "United Nations system". The delegation further recommended the insertion into the part "Activities" of subprogramme 4 of programme 20, "Energy", a technical publication, "State of the mineral raw-material base of the coal-mining industry in the countries of the world (the fourth quarter of 1992)" and/or "Forecast of major trends in the development of the mineral raw-material base of the world coal-mining industry to the year 2010 (the second quarter of 1993)". It also requested the removal from the title of subprogramme 6 the expression "Development and transfer of science and technology ..." and proposed a possible new title, "Popularization of knowledge for acquaintance with new technologies in energy".

4. The delegation also highlighted the need for examining the interrelationship between major mining companies and smaller enterprises in developing countries. It underscored the importance of mining legislation for small-scale mining and proposed the convening of a small expert group meeting to develop criteria for small-scale mining.